

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00940 121450Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 121329Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2935

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0940

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, AND AID

S/S-O ALERT DONALD E. BROCK, OFFICE OF SECRETARY BUTZ

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA TITLE I PL-480 WHEAT AND RICE AGREEMENT

1. I AM DISAPPOINTED AND INCREASINGLY EMBARRASED HERE BY OUR INABILITY TO ISSUE PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS (PA'S) FOR WHEAT AND RICE UNDER SUBJECT AGREEMENT SIGNED NOV 20. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED THAT PA'S BE ISSUED AND HAVE RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO ALL QUESTIONS PUT TO US. STATE 046646 OF MARCH 1 PROMISED PA'S WOULD BE ISSUED ASAP. STATE 047290 OF MARCH 3 REPORTED WE WOULD BE NOTIFIED BY CABLE WHEN PA'S ISSUED.

2. MY INABILITY COMPREHEND THESE DELAYS

IS SHARED BY SENIOR LEVELS OF SARG. FOR THIRD TIME, MINECON IMADI HAS QUESTIONED ME DIRECTLY ON WHY PA'S HAD NOT BEEN ISSUED, DURING OUR REVIEW OF NEW A.I.D. AGREEMENTS EVENING MARCH 11. I AM SEEING FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MARCH 15 AND I KNOW FULL WELL HE WILL ALSO ASK ME TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR DELAY GIVEN MY ASSURANCES TO HIM AND PRESIDENT ASAD IN SECRETARY'S PRESENCE FEBRUARY 13 THAT ALL PROCEDURAL ACTIONS ON SYRIAN SIDE HAD BEEN TAKEN AND WE EXPECTED ISSUANCE OF PA'S SHORTLY (DAMASCUS 603). THAT WAS A MONTH AGO AND I SIMPLY CANNOT WAFFLE ON THIS QUESTION WHEN I SEE KHADDAM ON SATURDAY.

3. UNEXPLAINED DELAY ON ISSUANCE OF PA'S

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IS RAPIDLY REACHING POINT WHERE SYRIANS WILL, HOWEVER UNJUSTIFIABLY

BEGIN TO SUSPECT POLITICAL MOTIVES ON OUR PART. AT PRESENT
DELICATE STAGE IN ME WHERE MAXIMUM SYRIAN CONFIDENCE IN US IS
VITAL, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STIMULATE UNWARRANTED SUSPICIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. ISSUE PA'S IMMEDIATELY AND INFORM ME OF THIS
ACTION BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. IF THERE INSUPERABLE REASONS FOR
FURTHER DELAYS, I REQUEST BY COB MARCH 14 FULL AND
CLEAR EXPLANATION OF THESE REASONS AND WHY I HAVE NOT
BEEN HERETOFORE INFORMED OF REASONS FOR SUCH DELAY TO HELP
ME PUT BEST FACE ON SUBJECT FOR KHADDAM.

B. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WAITING FOR OVER A MONTH FOR
REPLY ON ARABIC VERSION OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT (DAMASCUS
474, STATE 35928). NEED IMMEDIATE REPLY EITHER APPROV-
ING OUR ARABIC TEXT SENT TO DEPARTMENT OR CABLE REPLY
INDICATING ANY MINOR CHANGES DEPARTMENT WISHES IN
ARABIC VERSION.

MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. JOHNSON.
NOT PASSED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND AID.

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